

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 EUR-12 OMB-01 DHA-02 ORM-02

ACDA-07 SCCT-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 /105 W
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R 161310Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5997

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

USINT BAGHDJR

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KU, SA, SY, LE

SUBJECT: GOK SUPPORTS CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT MEETING TO DEAL
WITH LEBANESE CRISIS

REF: KUWAIT 3813, KUWAIT 3819

1. ACCORDING TO KUWAITI PRESS REPORTS, KUWAIT COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS DURING SESSION HELD ON AUGUST 15 ISSUED STATEMENT
OF GOK SUPPORT FOR CONVENING ARAB SUMMIT MEETING TO DEAL
WITH LEBANESE PROBLEM. GOK MOVE JOINS CALL
FOR SUMMIT WHICH APPARENTLY ORIGINATED WITH SAUDI ARABIA.
FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF GOK STATE-
MENT TAKEN FROM KUWAIT TIMES:

2. "KUWAIT DEEPLY REGRETS THE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES PLAGUING
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THE UNITY OF THE ARAB RANKS FOLLOWING THE RECENT CATASTROPHIES,

MASS SUFFERINGS AND UNETHICAL UGLY ACTIONS WHICH VIOLATED ALL HUMAN VALUES AND THREATENED THE DEEPENING OF THE EVENTS AND AIMED AT REALISING FOREIGN DESIGNS TO SPLIT LEBANON.

"AS SERIOUS DIMENSIONS AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS WILL BE REFLECTED ON ARAB CONDITIONS DUE TO THESE EVENTS, KUWAIT APPEALS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ARAB NATION AND ITS SINCERE SONS TO SHUN DIFFERENCES AND TO START AN IMMEDIATE INITIATIVE TO WORK BY ALL MEANS FOR ENDING ARAB BLOODSHED IN LEBANON.

"KUWAIT, WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY PATRONISED NUMEROUS INITIATIVES TO END THE WAR IN LEBANON AND TO CONSOLIDATE ARAB RANKS, FEELS TODAY THAT DETERIORATION OF THE PRESENT ARAB STATE OF AFFAIRS AND PARTICULARLY THE LEBANESE SITUATION REQUIRES URGENT ARAB MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO END THE DESTRUCTIVE FIGHTING IN LEBANON AND TO RESTORE ARAB SOLIDARITY TO ITS HONOURABLE FORM ACHIEVED DURING THE RAMADAN WAR.

"WHILE KUWAIT SUPPORTS SAUDI ARABIA IN HOLDING SUCH ARAB MEETING, IT ALSO REAFFIRMS ANEW THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE LOYAL TO ITS NATIONALIST TASK IN SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE TILL THE BROTHERLY PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WIN THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS, LANDS AND MOTHER COUNTRY.

"THEREFORE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMED HAS BEEN URGED TO MAKE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS ARAB COUNTERPARTS AT THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE TO COORDINATE FOR THE PROPOSED MEETING."

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT GOK ANNOUNCEMENT RESPONDS TO PLO REQUESTS FOR REACTIVATION OF SAUDI/KUWAITI MEDIATION EFFORTS. OVER THE PAST WEEKS FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD HAS HAD NUMEROUS CONTACTS WITH LOCAL PLO LEADERS INCLUDING PLO REP KHALID AL-HASSAN ON LEBANESE SITUATION AND ALSO HELD MEETING WITH PLO POLITICAL CHIEF, FAROUK KADDOUMI. KADDOUMI ASKED BY FONMIN TO DELAY HIS DEPARTURE FOR ONE DAY IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT FLY TOGETHER TO COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. BEYOND RESPONSE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PLO REQUESTS, HOWEVER, GOK IS UNDOUBTEDLY BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNEASY OVER STATE OF AFFAIRS IN LEBANON AND PARTICULARLY SYRIA'S INABILITY - OR UNWILLINGNESS -- TO EXERT NECESSARY PRESSURE TO BRING LEBANESE CONFLICT TO HALT. MOREOVER, STRIDENT NATURE OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER ARAB DISUNITY AND CONSEQUENT UNSETTLING ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT ME. AS A RESULT, GOK IS INCREASINGLY EXPOSED TO POSSIBILITY OF INTERNAL UNREST WHICH COULD BE PROVOKED BY

FRUSTRATION AND RESENTMENT OF RADICAL ELEMENTS OF LARGE PALESTINIAN POPULATION IN KUWAIT. GOK IS, THEREFORE, WILLING, IN COOPERATION WITH SAUDI ARABIA, TO TAKE UP AGAIN THOSE MEDIATION EFFORTS, WHICH HAVE SO FAR PRODUCED LITTLE RESULTS, AND ISSUE CALL FOR ARAB MEETING "AT HIGHEST LEVEL". KUWAIT'S CONCERN OVER ITS SECURITY IS COUPLED WITH FRUSTRATION OVER FACT THAT THEIR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION - AND EVEN LARGER ONES BY SAUDI ARABIA - TO PRINCIPAL PROTAGONISTS SEEM TO HAVE PRODUCED NO RESULTS. OBVIOUSLY GOK MUST HAVE NO ILLUSION ABOUT EXTENT OF ITS INFLUENCE, BUT IS CONCERNED ENOUGH, BOTH ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PLANES, TO JOIN IN ANOTHER EFFORT TO TRY TO BRING SOME MODERATION INTO IMMODERATE ARAB WORLD.
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